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Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I'm writing you about the DOJ v Microsoft antitrust lawsuit. I've heard how important it is for the government, the interest of Americans. According to the Tunney Act, we (the people) have a given period of time when we can express our opinions on the case.

I want to take this time to express my opinions about the case. I'm a high school student (18 years of age), and in my senior year. I attend the Urban Academy High School (In Manhattan, the Borough of New York City). This case is very important to Americans, and the students as well, for we are all American.

I've been following this case for quite a long time, and I believe, and know that Microsoft is guilty of no crime, unless you can count innovation as one. If we all take a brief moment and think, we can't remember who invented the steering wheel of the automobile; and yet every automobile company features this mechanical part in the car. So far, nobody has cried foul yet. For another example: when Nissan manufactures its car, the company includes a (Nissan) thermos, and only Nissan's, no one else's; so companies have a right to litigate because the thermos is in any way "anti-competitive"? So, if Microsoft doesn't feel that it needs to include more programs into its Operating System, it has the constitutional right not to. Why don't you bother Ford, or GMC about them being "uncompetitive" about their products if they happen to withhold their secret to their car engineering, and locking out competitors' parts? I'll tell you why, because it's ludicrous to persecute a company (constantly) just because they don't want to pre-install certain programs.

Microsoft's main competitor Apple should be litigated for locking out competitors as well. The fact that Apple's Macintosh Operating system only runs on Apple's Macintosh computer, and no one else's. No other company has a pre-loaded Mac OS, and that is anti-competitive. Microsoft is being forced to include what we computer people call "bloat ware"—loading up the OS with unnecessary programs, graphics, etc. People can install these programs on their own. Some of those (major) programs include:

- AOL (and all its products)
- NETSCAPE
- PRODIGY
- AT&T WORLDNET

By counting the hard drive space that these programs take up, the result would be unbelievable. Microsoft doesn't have to include them all, due to the fact that we can install programs of our choice. The same way you download software, freeware, and shareware off the Internet, you can install them just the same way. Why do we need all those programs bundled with Windows? I purchased Windows, so why do I have to get all those Online Services, and all those Instant Messengers (AOL, and Yahoo!)? It just slows down the computer, no wonder Windows is the OS that is most expected to

crash. Why isn't Apple being forced to do the same? How about Corel with its Linux OS? Mandrake's Linux, or Redhat's Linux?


Microsoft is a very innovative corporation. If not for Microsoft, I shudder to think how the world would look like today. Think about this: what do you at the DOJ use for word processing? Do you use the Windows OS? Or do you still use one of those typewriters? Think about it. The briefs for the U.S. Supreme Court cases are written on PC Computers, with Microsoft Word. The sad part is, is that the 9 Justices don't realize that they (or their clerks) are using them. Every court in The Nation uses Laptop computers, and I know they are not Apple's. I, as a professional computer user in the technical fields, I know the necessities, and making sure that Netscape has its browser pre-loaded in Windows is not one of them. AOL is a company that people have a tendency to dislike. My parents and canceled our AOL account, we now use Road Runner Cable service. So why are we being forced to include AOL's buggy software on Windows? We can install it if we want to. AOL's Instant Messenger has a new security problem that gives hackers the control of the victims' computers.

Microsoft was also accused of forcing consumers to view pictures, play music files, etc... with Internet Explorer, but that is not true; you don't have to associate the browser with picture file extensions, or music extensions, you can select a different program (Netscape). The reason why you can view pictures through Internet Explorer is that it's a Web browser, and Web browsers are built to view information on the Internet, (that includes pictures, music clips, etc...). In fact, you don't have to use Internet Explorer; you can use Netscape, Lynx, Mosaic, and other third party Web Browsers. In fact, I've even installed other Operating Systems (Mandrake Linux) on my SONY VAIO computer and it works perfectly.

I know how our opinions are important to you, and therefore, I've written you mine. I also know that it is vital to have opinions on Information Technology from students (high school, and/or college), for it is the "hot topic", and we are the future. I'm going to major in Computer Information Technology; therefore, I'm familiar with this field. I'm also interested in law and politics, and want to take Political Science in College.

I hope we can all settle, and move on. Continued litigation is not the right answer. Good luck with the decision.

Sincerely,



Felix Yukilevich.